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INFORMATI~~SECRET~~PORT

COUNTRY French Somaliland

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E DISTR. 24 December 1948

SUBJECT Communism in French Somaliland

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1. Government officials in French Somaliland indicate no knowledge of the existence of any communist organizations among the white population of that country. There are a few known communists among the French Army personnel stationed there but they are kept under constant surveillance. It is possible that a communist element may exist among the natives of Djibouti, but its existence has not been definitely established. Government officials are on the alert to detect communist activity and will take severe measures against any such movement.
2. There is an Islamic group active among the Somalis, which is attempting to form an independence movement and create hostility against Europeans. It is not yet a powerful nor a dangerous group, but there is a possibility that communists may attempt to infiltrate and exploit it.
3. The Deputy to the French Chamber of Deputies, M. Martine, was formerly a communist but has renounced his affiliation during the present year and now has the support of conservative elements in Djibouti.
4. The Delegate to the Council of the Republic, Zhamah Ali, is not a communist and, in fact, probably does not have the political intelligence necessary to understand communism.

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NO CHANGE in Class.

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